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JUVENILE SUPPLEMENT

A Special Note

We hope this winds up the coverage of 1955 books. Virtually all of those reported here are late comers, published this month- or on the verge of publication. With the December 1st issue we go into 1956 - and a checklist supplements those titles covered in the October roundup.

The suggestion has been made that we prepare a graded list of recommended books, old and new, and have it mimeographed in quantity so that you can give out lists to inquiring parents and teachers. We have done some preliminary work on such a list and find that it would run to approximately six pages. The initial cost to us, plus the work entailed, would be considerable. We should like to have some sort of idea of the value of this to you, the quantities you would need, and the price that would seem reasonable. Won't you write us your reaction to this idea, please?

PICTURE STORY BOOKS

Tresselt, Alvin & Duvoisin, Roger — WAKE UP, FARM! — Lothrop, Lee & Shepard, Cloth; $2.50

The subject matter is old- the approach is new. And the combination of Alvin Tresselt and Roger Duvoisin seems to assure a favorable reception. There's a difference in techniques here. The text is very, very simple, almost basic, and the pictures- in flat, gay postery technique- are linked very closely with the text, so that the child with sufficiently advanced vocabulary and recognition of familiar animals can almost create the text as page after page is turned- and as the farmyard and the poultry yard awake. (LC: 55-10441)

Opie, Iona & Peter- *Eds.* — THE OXFORD NURSERY RHYME BOOK — Oxford, $4.50

This seems to me to be an assemblage of rhymes that will serve as a fundamental reference tool for years to come, but one that adults will use with children rather than children seek out for themselves. It is a collection that ties in with the same editors' *Oxford Dictionary of Nursery Rhymes*. There are some 800 jingles, riddles, catches, counting rhymes, games, alphabets, prayers and song. Like is combined with like to provide nine sections, with the age levels progressive. The earlier sections have illustrations, based on originals from chapbooks and toybooks of the 18th and 19th centuries, for virtually every rhyme, while the older sections have perhaps one or two to a page. (LC: 55-12050)

BOOKS TO READ ALOUD

Lathrop, Dorothy P. — THE LITTLEST MOUSE — Macmillan, Paper over board; $1.75

Exquisite, as always, in blend of text and pictures that come alive, this newest of Dorothy Lathrop's animal stories has a particular level for those children from five to seven who like tiny creatures, real or fancied. The littlest mouse of this story will be thought of as a kind of "Stuart Little" of mousedom, as his perilous adventures - due to his tininess- succeed each other.

Tudor, Tasha- *Ill'd by* Oxford
FIRST GRACES $1.75

Companion volume to the favorite *First Prayers*, this, while equally enchanting in format, has, perhaps, less wide an appeal. The use of grace before meals is today much less general than formerly. But for those to whom the idea has acceptance, this selection of twenty prayers of thanksgiving is excellent. One could wish that at least one Jewish grace had been included, but perhaps that is laboring the point when the number is limited- and the probable market primarily Protestant. (LC: 55-11589)

EASY READING

Brown, Margaret Wise Scott
YOUNG KANGAROO Fabric; $2.25

It is rather a relief to have a factual book about the growth and development of the always intriguing kangaroo. Here is a story from birth to being put on his own- and a quite different story it is from the quick growing up process of most small animals. The development of the senses, with smell the first, is another new angle of approach. Told directly, with a vocabulary of perhaps second or third grade level; its content is of interest for the *Read Aloud* age as well. The pictures by Symean Shimin have a lyric quality that captures the poetry of the text. Printed in two colors. (LC: 55-5097)

Goudey, Alice E. Scribner
HERE COME THE ELEPHANTS! Cloth; $2.25

Another fact book about another favorite animal- the elephant. This is Mrs. Goudey's third real animal book, the others being bears and deer. She has given most of her text space to the African elephant, then brought in the difference in training of the work elephant of India. From birth to growing up - we follow the facts through a narrative of one small elephant. The pictures by Garry MacKenzie, in wash and one color, are attuned to the text. Vocabulary-wise- and typographically- this should be easy reading at second grade level. (LC: 55-10139)

CLASSICS, REPRINTS AND ILLUSTRATED EDITIONS

Harris, Joel Chandler Houghton, Mifflin
Chase, Richard, *compiler* $5.00
THE COMPLETE TALES OF UNCLE REMUS

Uncle Remus is a household word, south of the Mason and Dixon line- and in many a public library story hour the country over. Just how many home firesides beyond these limits know the tales of Brer Rabbit, Brer Fox, Brer Bar, Brer Wolf and the others, which Uncle Remus told a little boy seventy five years and more ago, is a question. The dialect is almost unreadable, without familiarity inbred. But the stories have the lilt and humor and detail and repetition beloved of young listeners, granted the gift of projecting those values. Anyhow, here it is- a treasury for many- drawn from the eight volumes, and illustrated by the original illustrations of A.B. Frost, E.W. Kemble and others. Richard Chase, well-known as a folklorist, considers the material from the angle of the best of American folklore, and contributes a serious introduction.

Lee, Tina — Doubleday
MANNERS TO GROW ON — Paper over board; $2.50

* This is an excellent young manners book, with the situations that arise in children's lives as springboards for behaviour guides. What youngster does not balk at introductions? Here we have every kind of introduction handled clearly, specifically. Temperamental attitudes come in for careful suggestion as fundamental to good manners as well as good form. Shyness, curiosity (of the prying kind), sportsmanship, making mistakes, shifting blame, indulging in moods- all this and more has its place. Table manners and table talk and responsibility for sharing; ways of saying no, acceptance and acknowledgement of gifts, letter writing, talking on the phone, behaviour in public places- and at home and school as well,- and all the aspects of visiting, from the invitation to the bread-and-butter letter - these and many more day by day problems find their place. A question and answer section at the back indicates ways in which to use the book as a constant guide and reference aid. Pictures and diagrams throughout, by Manning Lee, are a great asset. (LC: 54-9846)

Picard, Barbara Leonie — Oxford
FRENCH LEGENDS, TALES & FAIRY STORIES — Cloth; $3.50

This can be used in story hours for the more mature of the listeners, but the age at which the tales themselves carry spontaneous appeal seems to be from fourth to seventh grade. Traditional stories are here, legends from the provinces, courtly tales of the middle ages, and epic hero tales - and it is interesting to note how the quality of the stories, the particular regional and period flavor, differs from, for example, the collections of myths and legends from the British Isles in previous books in this series. The illustrations by Kiddell-Monroe are charming, decorative line cuts as chapter heads, and full pages in soft gray wash, bold black and effective blue.

Swain, Su Zan N. — Garden City
INSECTS IN THEIR WORLD — Paper over board; $2.50

* Not only a very beautiful book, but one that is chock full of information that any budding entomologist would find fascinating. It should even make converts of those who haven't already been interested in basic facts about insects. Definition, classification, development; anatomy; where and how to find them; and expanded details about some of the insects make up a good background book. For the beginning collector there are facts on equipment and techniques, on live collections, and on the essential factor of close observation and recording of things observed. There is- in the final pages- something of plant homes of insects and various kinds of protection employed. More than 150 insects are included, and the illustrations, lovingly and accurately drawn, many of them in full color, are integral to the text. Mrs. Swain is quite evidently an artist as well as a biologist. (LC: 55-9719)

TWELVE TO SIXTEEN- Fiction

Dawson, Carley — Houghton, Mifflin
DRAGON RUN — $2.75

There's been a gap between this and *Mr. Wicker's Window*, and *The Sign of the Seven Seas* but some may recall that skillful blend of adventure and fantasy, in stories involving Christopher Mason, boy of today, and his magic transfer back to the 18th century. Once again, in this third book, Chris meets his mentor, Mr. Wicker. Once again he goes back to an earlier century and uses the powers of magic that he has been taught. Once again he takes part in adventures that involve two plantations, a wicked slave driver, zombies and other frightening heritages of the West Indies. And this time, there is another boy, an 8-year old, who turns out to be the Lost Dauphin- and who is on his way to Canada and a new life as Jean Jacques Audubon, when the story ends. Lynd Ward pictures. (LC: 55-9951)

Sterling, Dorothy — Doubleday

WALL STREET — $2.75

The Story of the Stock Exchange

The distribution of this book promises to be primarily an urban one- and perhaps originally in New York, Chicago, San Francisco, and other large metropolitan centers of finance. For there the interest would be stimulated by occupational backgrounds and some assumption of familiarity. But close attention to this particular book, with its skillful and informed handling, suggests that a wider appeal could be stimulated. Here is the New York Stock Exchange, specifically, the history of Wall Street, how the exchanges began, something of the meaning of the stocks and bonds dealt with, and a guided tour of the exchanges themselves. From barter to the machinery and organization of modern exchanges, the story behind the purchase and sale of shares owned by some 7 million people in this country is told. A big subject reduced to terms anyone can understand. (LC: 55-9010)

FICTION FOR YOUNG ADULTS

Horgan, Paul — Farrar, Straus

THE SAINTMAKER'S CHRISTMAS EVE — $2.75

This is a tale of a missionary priest in frontier days in the Southwest;- of two brothers who learned from him something of the skill of wood carving; and of the double miracle, as one of the brothers is saved in storm and disaster by the Christopher figure he has carved. The priest, too, is led to a remote town, there to bless the chapel and the saint on Christmas Eve. The story has charm- but lacks the warmth of its predecessors. For full report see p. 812. (12/3. LC: 55-12208)

And a Few Thrillers

		Page
Tuttle, W. C. - MISSION RIVER JUSTICE	Avalon	400
Fleming, Ian - MOONRAKER	Macmillan	448
Whitman, S.E. - SCOUT COMMANDER	Houghton, Mifflin	563
Lockridge, Frances and Richard- *Eds.* CRIME FOR TWO	Lippincott	564
McCann, Edison - PREFERRED RISK	Simon & Schuster	564
Queen, Ellery-*Ed.* ELLERY QUEEN'S AWARDS	Little, Brown	616
Bradbury, Ray - THE OCTOBER COUNTRY	Ballantine	717

NON-FICTION FOR YOUNG ADULTS

Hammerstein, Oscar, II — Simon & Schuster

THE JEROME KERN SONG BOOK — $7.50

Jerome Kern and his songs- in text and music- this is a rich array, stressing the simple, pure line melody characteristic of Kern's music. The text gives a warmly appreciative appraisal of the man and the musician. The piano and voice arrangements of the 50 songs included are simple enough for practical purposes. And the words follow the score. One of the best of a good series. For full report see p. 830. (Publ. LC: M55-1013)

Simon, Henry- *Ed.* — Simon & Schuster

A TREASURY OF CHRISTMAS SONGS & CAROLS — $4.95

Familiar enough is the orthodox collection of Christmas hymns and carols. But this goes much farther, including as it does over 100 selections, many of them carols from other lands, rounds and canons, chorals and solos, in addition to the old favorites. Some of the latter are ones half known and hard to find, such as The Holly and the Ivy, As Joseph Was a-Walking, The Twelve Days of Christmas and others. In format the book follows the pattern of *A Treasury of Hymns* and *A Treasury of Grand Opera* with decorative spots and headings, all brimful of the feeling of Christmas. Footnotes place the origin of the music and the words; some of the arrangements are new. All in all- an ideal gift for Christmas. (Publ. LC: 55-9328)